

1 Lower Marsh,  
London,  
SE1 7NT

Email: [NELCSU.foi@nhs.net](mailto:NELCSU.foi@nhs.net)

Dear Ms Tuson

Reference: FOI.21.NEL136

4 November 2021

**Re: Freedom of Information request**

Thank you for your request under the *Freedom of Information Act 2000* (the Act). This response is provided on behalf of NHS North East London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Your request along with the CCG's response is detailed below.

**1. Could you please confirm for your CCG, during the timeframes below, the number of episodes of care you have processed for your commissioned services with NHS Trusts?**

**a. For procedure: Sacroiliac joint steroid injections:**

2018/19 = 35480

2019/20 = 35136

**b. For procedure: Sacroiliac joint Radiofrequency ablations (RFA)**

2018/19 = 550

2019/20 = 274

**c. For procedure: Sacroiliac joint surgical procedure.**

2018/19 = 10512

2019/20 = 9226

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2. Please could you confirm if your commissioned NHS Trusts require individual funding requests (IFR) for this procedure Sacroiliac joint steroid injection Yes or No?

No - Individual Funding Requests would be required when requesting a sacroiliac joint steroid injection for a patient with non-specific lower back pain only.

3. Also the number of IFRs during 2018/19 and 2019/20 your CCG have received from NHS Trusts for Sacroiliac joint injections if their policy requires this? Please respond using the following headings

**Trusts name:** London BMI; Highgate Hospital and Holly House

**Number accepted:** 0

**Number rejected:** NHS North East London CCG does hold this information. The CCG considers that this information is exempt under Freedom of Information Act 2000, Section 40(2) (personal information) as disclosure of this level of detail could lead to the identification of individuals, which would be in breach of Data Protection legislation.

Although I cannot confirm the exact figure, I can confirm that the number in each of these categories is less than five.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 introduces a broader concept of risk of personal identifiable information because its test for deciding whether personal data can be disclosed is whether disclosure to a member of the public would breach the data protection principles. This means that public authorities have to assess whether releasing apparently anonymised data to a member of the public would breach the data protection principles.

This is intended to ensure that public authorities take into account the additional information that a member of the public might have (information on the Web or in news reports, public libraries, court records etc.) that could allow data to be combined to produce information that relates to and identifies a particular individual - and that is therefore personal data.

Low statistical values increase the likelihood of seemingly anonymised information being combined with other information to identify an individual.

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4. Please could you confirm if your commissioned NHS Trusts require individual funding requests (IFR) for this procedure Sacroiliac joint Radiofrequency ablations (RFA) Yes or No?

No - Individual Funding Requests would be required when requesting sacroiliac joint radiofrequency ablations for a patient with non-specific lower back pain only.

5. Also the number of IFRs your CCG have received from NHS Trusts for Sacroiliac joint Radiofrequency ablations (RFA) if their policy requires this? Please respond using the following headings

Trusts name: Not applicable

Number accepted: 0

Number rejected: 0

6. Please could you confirm if your commissioned NHS Trusts require individual funding requests (IFR) for this procedure Sacroiliac joint surgical Yes or No?

No - Individual Funding Requests would be required when requesting sacroiliac joint surgical for a patient with non-specific lower back pain only.

7. Also the number of IFRs your CCG have received from NHS Trusts for Sacroiliac joint surgical if their policy requires this? Please respond using the following headings

Trusts name: Not applicable

Number accepted: 0

Number rejected: 0

8. Please can you confirm how many Sacroiliac joint injections a single individual funding request covers for a patient per year and on-going if applicable?

9. Please can you confirm how many Sacroiliac joint RFA procedures a single individual funding request covers and the interval between procedures if applicable?

### Questions 8 – 9

NHS North East London CCG does not hold this information. It is a clinical decision which would be proposed by the clinical applicant and form part of the Individual Funding Request.

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**10. Could you please provide a copy of the latest service specification for your Sacroiliac joint services that you have with your NHS Trust, which shows the care pathway that you provide? Normally found under 'Schedule 2' of the Standard contract in place, with your NHS Trust?**

NHS North East London CCG does not hold this information. Contracts have been reviewed and the current position is that services specified in Schedule 2A are not specified at the level of granularity required – i.e. Hip joint replacement.

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**Postal address**

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We will record your contact and request details in order to monitor and improve the service we provide and in order to discharge our statutory obligations under the Act. This information will be handled in accordance with the NHS Confidentiality Code of Practice and the *Data Protection Act 2018*.

**Using personal data we provide**

You are required not to use personal data which is provided to you for electronic marketing (telesales, fax, e-mail) to our staff and comply with the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003. Provision of such personal data in response to a Freedom of Information or Environmental Information request does not constitute consent from the individual concerned.

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### Review procedure

If you feel that we have not met the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, you should contact the FOI Team at: [NELCSU.foi@nhs.net](mailto:NELCSU.foi@nhs.net)

If you remain dissatisfied, you can ask us to review our decision by making a written request for an internal review. In order to assist with the review, you should include your address, a description of the original request and the reasons why you are dissatisfied. Please send this to:

#### Email

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#### Postal address

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The review will be handled by more senior staff who were not involved in the original decision. Although this will not apply to Section 36 claimed exemptions in accordance with Department of Health Directive, your request will still be reviewed. We aim to complete all internal reviews within 20 working days. If you then wish to appeal you should contact the Information Commissioner for an independent review at the following address:

#### Telephone

01625 545745

#### Postal address

The Information Commissioner,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF

#### Website address

[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)



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### Feedback

Your feedback is welcome to help us improve the service we provide. Please send comments or suggestions to our address.

Yours sincerely,

**Freedom of Information Team**

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